

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138403

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ILO, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION AT ILO

REF: GENEVA 4672

1. WHEN DEBATE ON PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION BEGINS, DEPARTMENT
WOULD PREFER, IF US WORKER AND EMPLOYER DELEGATES CONCUR,
THAT USDEL PURSUE DELAYING STRATEGY, USING RATIONALE THAT
RESOLUTION IS CONDEMNATION WITHOUT FULL AND IMPARTIAL
INVESTIGATION. US OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO AVOID HAVING
PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION REACH PLENARY. IF APPROPRIATE, US
GOVT REP SHOULD APPROACH PANAMANIAN GOVT REP AND SUGGEST
ALTERNATIVE OF JOINT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEGOTIATIONS
FOR A NEW CANAL TREATY.

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2. US GOVT REP SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN DETAILED
DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC AREAS OF ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION
MENTIONED IN PAN GOVT REP'S CONFERENCE SPEECH JUNE 7,
SINCE SOME OF THESE AREAS ARE UNDER DISCUSSION IN TREATY
NEGOTIATIONS. US MAY NOTE THAT SOME ASPECTS OF FUTURE
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ARE PART OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WHICH

ARE TAKING PLACE IN WASHINGTON CURRENTLY, THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE A BILATERAL MATTER, AND THE ILO IS NOT THE PROPER FORUM FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

3. AFL-CIO AFFILIATED UNIONS REPRESENT BOTH US AND PANAMANIAN WORKERS IN THE CANAL ZONE. US WORKER REP MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON UNION EXPERIENCES IN THE CANAL ZONE, AND NOTE THAT PROVISIONS OF FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT, INCLUDING MINIMUM WAGE, ARE APPLICABLE IN THE CANAL ZONE WITH THE RESULT THAT PANAMANIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT AND THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY EARN CONSIDERABLY MORE (MINIMUM \$2.50) THAN PANAMANIAN WORKERS IN COMPARABLE POSITIONS IN PANAMA (MINIMUM 50-65 CENTS). US GOVT REP SHOULD SUPPORT WORKER AND EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES IN MANNER SUGGESTED REFTEL.

4. EMBASSY PANAMA WILL BE INFORMING GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA OF ILO RESOLUTION (SEPTTEL), POINTING OUT THAT STRONG ANTI-AMERICAN RESOLUTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA COULD BE DAMAGING TO CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

5. BACKGROUND ON PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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